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The Encyclopedia of Espionage

Hayden B. Peake

variety of reasons: patriotism, adventure, prize money, or simply to avoid the line regiments of the Army. The chapter entitled "Barracks and Hammocks" describes life in the different Marine barracks in Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Portsmouth (New Hampshire), Washington, as well as various seagoing detachments. From private to sergeant, one of the most common gripes among the men was the loss of the spirit ration. Grog disappeared on 1 September 1862, which caused great unrest and cursing in the ranks.

The book contains an outstanding picture gallery of enlisted Marines in various uniforms and of various ranks. Anyone interested in the uniforms and accouterments of the period will be delighted. One can easily see the shoulder scales on the full dress uniform and the ornaments on the fatigue caps.

The "President's Own," the U.S. Marine Band, has enjoyed a long and distinguished history since its inception during the John Adams administration. There is an excellent history of the band in the concluding chapter. When Lincoln arrived in Washington, it was the Marine Band he heard playing "Hail to the Chief." The band also accompanied the president to the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg in 1863, and later it was a part of his funeral cortege. Other Marine musicians served throughout the war as fifers and drummers.

The author is the editor of *Military Collector & Historian*, the journal of the Company of Military Historians. Sullivan has amassed considerable detail on the Marine Corps during the second year of the Civil War. The second volume equals his first, and it makes one look forward to reading the third volume, which was published in January 1999.

This series should be on the reading list of all Marines. It makes an outstanding addition to a part of Marine Corps history about which little has been written. Colonel Charles Waterhouse's painting of Corporal Mackie under fire at Drewry's Bluff on the James River makes a spectacular dustcover. *The United States Marine Corps in the Civil War: The Second Year* is excellent reading and a valuable reference.

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Polmar, Norman, and Thomas B. Allen. *Spy Book: The Encyclopedia of Espionage*. New York: Random House, 1998. 645pp. $18

Every few years a new encyclopedia of intelligence finds its way into the book stalls. Ronald Seth's *Encyclopedia of Espionage* (1972), Richard Deacon's *Spyclopedia* (1987), Mark Lloyd's *Guinness Book of Espionage* (1994), and Jay Nash's *Spies: A Narrative Encyclopedia* (1997) are typical examples. While entry

length and format follow those of the traditional encyclopedia, the basic facts about a given espionage topic often vary with the source. A comparison of the Mata Hari entries for the works just mentioned provides a good illustration of the problem. The reason is straightforward—the general-purpose encyclopedia relies on years of historical scholarship, a factor missing until very recently in the study of espionage. Most authors of espionage encyclopedias rely on secondary or tertiary sources, without further research. In the process they perpetuate their predecessors' errors.

Fortunately, the authors of *Spy Book*—Norman Polmar, a former editor with *Jane's Fighting Ships*, and Thomas Allen, previously a senior editor at the National Geographic Society and author of national security books—to a great extent avoid this pitfall. In most cases they have filtered out the fiction while presenting the material in a very reader-friendly format.

Spy Book, with its more than three thousand entries, follows the traditional alphabetical order, "integrating people, places, institutions, hardware, code words, operations, tradecraft, and other paraphernalia of spying." Important items are marked with a black star indicating that more material may be found in entries for each capitalized name. A chronology of war and events from 1800 B.C. to the present helps orient the reader. In general, the material is not sourced, although there are many books mentioned in the narrative.

As with most reference works of this kind, the emphasis is on the espionage conflict between the Soviet Union/Russia and Western nations. There is, however, a very good entry on the Chinese services, though it will no doubt need considerable updating in future editions. Similarly, though the Internet is discussed and some URLs are provided, there is no mention of information warfare or of the problems that e-mail and the World Wide Web have created for counterintelligence. On the other hand, the coverage of other foreign intelligence services is good for the major nations, though, with the exception of the Mossad, Middle Eastern services are neglected, as are those of most Third World countries. Polmar and Allen have also included many cases not found in their competition, such as the VENONA operation and the counterintelligence cases of Clyde Conrad, James Hall, Robert Lipka, Harold Nicholson, Bruce Ott, and Aldrich Ames, to give a few examples.

Notwithstanding all that is positive about this book, it too fell victim to the error problem, and the entries must be used accordingly. For example, KGB officer Yuri Nosenko approached the CIA in 1962, not 1963, and he was never a double agent. Likewise, the statement on page 430 that "the

Penkovsky Papers" were black propaganda (untrue) is incorrect; while the source of the papers was disguised, their content was accurate. In the same entry, American KGB agents Peter and Helen Kroger, imprisoned by MI5, were exchanged for Gerald Brooke, not Greville Wynn as claimed. The entry on Harold "Kim" Philby also has several technical errors: he was not recruited at Cambridge as alleged; several details of his Vienna days are wrong; his second wife never worked at Bletchley Park; and Jim Angleton was not the head of the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Strategic Operations, nor was he the one who convinced the director that Philby was a Soviet agent—Bill Harvey deserves that honor. *Spy Book* even has trouble with its Mata Hari entry. Her husband was not a naval officer but a Dutch army officer. A final illustration is an error that has become a myth—the code name for Sir William Stevenson was "48100," not "Intrepid"—his biography *The Man Called Intrepid* notwithstanding.

While *Spy Book* may not be the "definitive reference to the world of espionage" as the dust jacket proclaims, Polmar and Allen have provided the next best thing. Within the limits indicated, it will be of real value to students, journalists, and general readers who wish to get a quick summary of a case or learn the meaning of the often arcane terms of espionage.

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